



Smokehouse Plaque Dedicated



On Tuesday, September 9, a ceremony was held at the Keeter Training Center, unveiling a bronze plaque to be placed on the smokehouse. The plaque commemorates that the building was constructed with bricks from the original Station 5. The ceremony was also the first activity conducted by the **Raleigh Fire Department Historical Society** that is being organized. See page 2 for more information.

The ceremony featured comments from Fire Chief John McGrath, Battalion Chief Luther Walters, and Historian Mike Legeros. Attendees, including a number of retirees, were invited to sign a metal plate to be placed behind the plaque.

continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Smokehouse Plaque – Three Alarms on Hammell Drive
- 2 Fire Bell – World Burn Congress – Training Division
- 3 Residential Sprinkler Vote – Tanker Fire – Other News
- 4 New Employees – Promotions – USAR Member Injured – Explorer Post – Historical Society – Station 29
- 5 Our Family Tree, Part 2 – Tales of the Yearbook
- 6 Pink Ribbon Tour – Fire Prevention Week – Calendar of Events – Fireman's Club – Retiree Christmas Party

Three Alarms on Hammell Drive



Heavy fire, distant hydrants, and a segmented building challenged crews at a three-alarm fire on Sunday, September 21. Engine 1 was first on scene with heavy smoke showing from a two-story block warehouse building with a metal roof. Interior crews encountered a large amount of fire and defensive operations were immediately initiated. Engine 1 and Ladder 1, located in front of the building, started master streams as the fire vented through the roof.



Three aerial streams operated, along with ground monitors and hand lines. Four hydrants supplied operations. Crews were challenged by the lengthy distance to hydrants, which required lays as long as 1,500 feet. Command was located in the northeast corner of the building. Car 2 was assisted by Battalion 3, Battalion 2, Car 5, and Car 1. The fire was extinguished in four hours, though crews stayed on scene into the next day. See more photos at www.legeros.com/rfd.

continued from page 1

The smokehouse was built by firefighters in 1964, beside the original drill tower. They used the bricks saved when old Station 5 was demolished by firefighters in 1961. The new station was constructed beside the old station, built in 1926 at 1914 Park Drive.



The smokehouse was used for smoke training. By the late 1980s, however, live-fire exercises were discontinued and the building served as storage. In recent years, it has been used for select training activities.

The smokehouse was renovated in 2008. The roof was replaced, the second floor was expanded, and the rear metal stairs were replaced, among other upgrades. See more photos at www.legeros.com/rfd ❖

Fire Bell Returning to City

In related historical news, the 1870 fire alarm bell, presently atop Withers Hall at North Carolina State University, is being returned to the city. The bell was installed around 1948 as a replacement for a steam whistle used to signal students. Last year, the origins of the bell were uncovered by a graduate student. The fire department will conduct a removal operation on Sunday, October 12, utilizing members of USAR Task Force #8. The 138 year-old artifact is about 38 inches high and is estimated to weigh about 1,500 pounds.

World Burn Congress in Raleigh

The Raleigh Fire Department is participating in the 2008 World Burn Congress, scheduled October 1-4 at the Raleigh Convention Center. Conducted by the Phoenix Society for Burn Survivors and hosted by the UNC Jaycee Burn Center and the OSFM, the annual international conference brings together more than 650 burn survivors, their families, caregivers, burn care professionals, and firefighters.

The Training Division is coordinating transportation for the four-day event. Our Honor Guard will be present at the opening ceremony, where Chief McGrath will deliver a taped message. Fire & Life Safety Educator Ron Campbell will conduct a fire extinguisher demonstration during a media event at the North Carolina

Fallen Firefighters Memorial at Nash Square. Personnel are also participating in a firefighter barbecue cook-off. Learn more about the Phoenix Society and the World Burn Congress at www.phoenix-society.org ❖

Training Division Updates

The newest members of the Raleigh Fire Department started their training on September 29. Recruit academy #35 is scheduled for 28 weeks. The 29 recruits will fill both retired positions and a new ladder company. They'll graduate with certifications in EMT, Firefighter I and II, and Rescue Technician VMR.

Recruits will also receive training on haz-mat operations and awareness, fireground procedures, high-rise operations, rapid intervention teams (RIT), accountability systems, safety companies, engine and ladder company operations, and firefighter safety and survival.

Live fire evolutions are planned at the Keeter Training Center (one week), at the Wake County Training Center (one week), and at the Gaston College Regional Emergency Services Training Center (three days). The Gaston facility includes a flashover simulator.



Improvements continue at the Keeter Training Center. A roof prop on the lower level has been completed, and a pair of propane burn pits is being built. An SCBA safety and survival maze is also in the works. On the upper level, additional mobile classrooms are being added. They'll total five when delivery is finished this fall.

A used commercial bus has also been obtained by the Training Division. It seats 47 and was purchased in Maiden, N.C. The bus is being painted and lettered, and will be equipped with a minimum of warning lights. Named SR 3, it will be utilized for a number of functions including transporting recruits to training events and during deployments of USAR Task Force #8. ❖

Deputy Fire Marshals Vote on Residential Sprinklers

Seven Fire Prevention Division members traveled to the International Code Conference in Minneapolis in September to vote in favor of code-mandated residential sprinkler systems. This potentially life-saving change in the International Residential Code (IRC) passed on Sunday, September 21. The approved resolution will change the IRC code to mandate fire sprinklers in single-family homes beginning July 1, 2011.

The Fire Prevention Division will continue to demonstrate their support for this initiative in the coming months and years, as local legislators are lobbied by the construction industry to modify North Carolina's adherence to the International Code.



Congratulations to our voting delegation and their role in helping make this important change. The delegation (left to right): Tim Wall, John Pender, Ron Campbell, Todd Furr, Tim Blaisedell, Steve Berry, and Randy Harrington (not pictured).

Tanker Burns on Beltline

On August 26, a fully-loaded gas tanker overturned about 12:34 a.m. on the inner loop of the Beltline just before Rock Quarry Road. The rig rolled after exiting from I-40, caught fire and ejected the driver. He was transported to WakeMed, and transferred to the UNC burn center. The Garner Fire Department was initially dispatched, and also requested Engine 10. The call was also dispatched as a house fire at the end of Rose Lane.

Command was established by Garner Battalion 1, and then transferred to Raleigh Battalion 2. Water was shuttled from Rock Quarry Road, using tankers from Eastern Wake, Garner, New Hope, Swift Creek, and Western Wake. The beltline was closed as the fire burned itself out. Crews cleared by 5:30 a.m.



Earlier tanker fires on the Beltline include December 18, 1998 (Capital Boulevard) and August 6, 1977 (New Bern Avenue). See more photos by Lee Wilson at www.legeros.com/rfd. ❖

Other News

Bids were awarded in September for two 100-foot, rear-mounted, Pierce aerial platforms. Three platforms are presently on the roster: a 1999 American LaFrance (Ladder 20), a 1995 Simon-Duplex (reserve Ladder 112), and a 1988 Pierce (reserve Ladder 210). Bids for two Pierce pumpers were also awarded. ❖ The fire department payroll, long a manual process, is now computer-based. An online payroll system was placed in service city-wide on August 2. Captains now approve employee time sheets, which are sent to Susan Watts at Station 1. The new system improves accuracy and reduces the overall time to create payroll. ❖

Strategic planning is under way at Fire Administration. The planning office is conducting a needs assessment of each division to project future resource requirements including staffing, space, and physical assets. This work will be followed by development of a master plan for the fire department. ❖ Firefighters held a moment of silence on September 11 in remembrance of the civilian and uniformed victims of the terrorist attacks of 2001. On each station's apron, personnel stood in front of their apparatus. At 9:59 a.m. the communications center initiated three minutes of silence in tribute to those lost during the attacks. ■

New Employees

The following firefighter recruits started September 29:

Courtney R. Andrews	Jerel McGeachy
Timothy R. Ballard	Josue Olmeda
Christopher T. Benvenuto	Aaron C. Parker
Christopher L. Campbell	Emily K. Parsons
Richard M. Capps	Jennifer K. Patterson
Herman G. Ellis	Justin B. Pulley
Derrick F. Fells	Danny S. Reyes
Christopher W. Ferrell	Thomas G. Richards
Kevin W. Godwin	William B. Smith
Ian D. Griffin	Miguel A. Tamayo
Jason E. Hall	Nicholas T. Thompson
Clara P. Irurita	Roman D. Venegas
Erika D. Johnson	Scotty R. Weaver
Kelly L. Lamotta	Matthew T. Williams
Charles W. Langston	

Promotions

July 19

Battalion Chief Samuel Richards to Division Chief.

August 16

Promoted to First Class Firefighter:

Philip F. Arevalo	Maria A. Peterson
Chadwick S. Bisette	Joshua A. Petty
Scott P. Broaddus	Terry L. Putman
Robert A. Coughter	John B. Razor
Wayne T. Ennis	Jay D. Rauer
Michael R. Gerke	Russell C. Scott
Christopher R. Glarum	John H. Sealey III
Michelle M. Hickman	Linwood C. Shingleton
Christopher S. Holcomb	Ryan C. Stagner
Andrew J. Johnson	Bradley A. Stikeleather
James L. Jones	Adam L. Walker
James C. Lawrence	Jeffrey E. Wardrick
Issachar N. Modert	Anthony L. Warrick.
Malcolm P. Perry	

On September 9, Durham Firefighter and USAR Task Force 8 member Eric Rozier suffered a severe head injury during a USAR exercise on Jordan Lake. Eric and two others were thrown out of their boat. He was transported to UNC hospital in critical condition, and suffered massive swelling of the brain. His recovery will be long, and may require as much as a year before he can return to duty. Please keep this brother in your thoughts and prayers. ❖

Explorer Post Reactivated

Raleigh Fire Department Explorer Post #108 has been reactivated after a two-year hiatus. A recruitment campaign is under way and the first official meeting was held at Station 18 on September 23. Meetings will be scheduled every other Wednesday at a different station. The post presently has 13 members. Upcoming activities include fundraising to support a trip to the National Fire Explorer Convention in Gatlinburg, TN, in January 2009.

The Post Leader is Lt. Lonnie Glover (R14-C). Post Advisors are Capt. Chris Wilson (E13-C), Lt. Mark Kelling (E4-A), First Class Firefighter Steve Welch (L20-A), and Firefighter Paul Wyatt (E19-C). More information, including by-laws and SOPs, are available at the web site fdexplorers.home.mindspring.com. The revised rules include new restrictions, such as no ride along program, no station sleepovers, and no entry in hot zones or IDLH environments by explorers. ❖

Historical Society Organizing

Are you interested in helping preserve and display the history of the Raleigh Fire Department? Planning has started on a formal organization called the Raleigh Fire Department Historical Society. Active and retired personnel are invited to participate. Battalion Chief Alan Walters and Historian Mike Legeros are leading the effort.

They are collecting ideas and forming thoughts. From corporations to museums, the field is wide open with possibilities. There are also projects on the forefront, including an initiative to collect and store all old log books. If you are interested in participating, please send a message to rfdhistory@ci.raleigh.nc.us. Chief Walters can be reached at Station 12 (B shift) at (919) 250-2731. Mike Legeros can be reached at home at (919) 786-0110. ❖

Fire Station 29 Update

Fire department staff is working with the city Construction Management department on land acquisition and design features. Station 29, to be located in the Leesville Road area of northwest Raleigh, will serve Brier Creek and surrounding areas. Funding for construction was provided in the FY09 budget, and bids will be posted soon. Funding for staffing will be requested in the FY10 budget. ■

Our Family Tree, Part 2

Who is related to whom in the fire department, past or present? Here is the second installment of a feature tracing the family tree of the Raleigh Fire Department. Members who died on- or off-duty are listed as (d). Note that ranks of retirees (r) are listed as present-day equivalents.

Brothers and Sisters

Capt. **Mike Alford** (r) and Firefighter **Curtis Alford** (r) are brothers.

Capt. **Ollie Blake** (r) is the brother of Capt. **Flenrill Blake** (d), who is the father of former Firefighter **Chuck Blake**.

Capt. **Francis Conyers** (r) and Capt. **Norman Conyers** (r) are brothers.

Capt. **Charles Jones** and Capt. **Glenn Jones** are brothers.

Lt. **Jason Lane** is brother to Lt. **Nick Lane**, who is husband to Firefighter **Teresa Lane**.

Firefighter **Chris Laxton** and Firefighter **Kevin Laxton** are brothers.

Capt. **Mickey Matthews** (r) and Lt. **Tony Matthews** (r) are brothers.

Capt. **Harry Mimms** (r) and Lt. **Paul Mimms** (d) are brothers.

Lt. **Nick Murray** and Firefighter **Mike Murray** are brothers, and the sons of Capt. **Mike Murray** (r).

Capt. **Zeb Overton** and Lt. **Patrick Overton** are brothers.

Lt. **Randall Wright** and Firefighter **Scott Wright** are brothers, and Scott is brother-in-law to Bat. Chief **Mickey Martin**.

Fathers and Sons

Capt. **Steven Bartholomew** is the son of Capt. **Bill Bartholomew** (r).

Lt. **Tim Beasley** is the son of Bat. Chief **Ellis Beasley** (r).

Capt. **Donnie Brown** is the son of Capt. **Titus Brown** (r).

Firefighter **Patrick Canady** is the son of Capt. **Darrell Canady**.

Fire Chief **Earl Fowler** (r) is the son of Capt. **B. T. Fowler** (r).

Firefighter **Scott Franks** is the son of Capt. **Michael Franks** (r), who is the cousin of Lt. **Jimmy Franks** (r) and the cousin of Bat. Chief **Paul Johnson** (r).

Capt. **Craig Hodges** is the son of Capt. **Jerry Hodges** (r).

Firefighter **Waylon Holden Jr.** is the son of Capt. **Waylon Holden**.

Firefighter **George Jones Jr.** is the son of Firefighter **George Jones** (r).

Firefighter **Jimmy Narron** is the son of Capt. **Charlie Narron** (r).

Firefighter **K. C. Ray** is the son of Capt. **Stan Ray** (r), who is the son of Capt. **Joe Ray** (r).

Husbands and Wives

Firefighter **Leo Forte** (r) is married to Firefighter **Phyllis Forte** (r).

Firefighter **Steven Griffin** is married to Fire Planner **Alison Griffin**.

Capt. **Jim Parker** (r) is married to Fire Educator **Jan Parker** (r).

Fire Chief **Sherman Pickard** (r) is married to Firefighter **Matilda Pickard** (r).

Other Relations

Fire Chief **Jack Keeter** (r) is the uncle of Manager of Training **Tommy Gattis** (r), who is the son-in-law of Capt. **C. A. Lloyd** (r). ❖

Tales of the Yearbook

As we await the yearbooks—now being printed and shipping by late October—here are some facts and figures about their production. The committee first met at Station 12 on August 30, 2007. Their last production meeting was held at Station 26 on June 6, 2008.

The word count totaled 22,741, including 4,539 for photo captions and 4,164 for station histories. Two complete rosters were included, one for portraits and one for station shift photos.

Tens of thousands of images were reviewed. Over 67,000 were taken by Lee Wilson and Mike Legeros between 2004 and 2007. Several hundred were taken just for the annual.



Both active and retired members submitted an enormous number of photos, from individual prints to almost 500 digital images at one time. The yearbook committee also received entire scrapbooks of photos.

Over 1,000 photos alone were taken of station crews, prior to final selection. Thanks again for everyone's help with those!

Finally, some 900 historical images were reviewed. They ranged from State Archives images to recently discovered slides at Keeter Training Center. ■

Pink Ribbon Tour Visits



Raleigh, Durham, and Bethesda firefighters greeted the traveling Pink Ribbon Tour on September 14 at a Brier Creek shopping center. The campaign, initiated by Arizona firefighters to raise breast cancer awareness, features a pink fire truck outfitted with pink turn-out gear. Personnel and local partners joined the Arizona firefighters during their three-hour visit. ❖

Fire Prevention Week Activities

Prevent Home Fires is this year's theme for Fire Prevention week. The Raleigh Fire Department is planning several events, including:

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3 - MONDAY, OCTOBER 6
Fire safety display at Crabtree Valley Mall.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5
Open house at all fire stations.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7
Fire department history presentation at Cameron Village Regional Library, 7:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8
Partnership with Dominos. Order a pizza from select stores and get your smoke detector checked.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WORLD BURN CONGRESS
Raleigh Convention Center. See page 2.
October 1 - October 4

MONTHLY RETIREE BREAKFAST
Pam's Restaurant, 5111 Western Boulevard, 7:30 a.m.
October 14, November 11, December 9

RETIREE CHRISTMAS PARTY
Wake County Shrine Club, 6015 LEAD MINE ROAD, 6:00 p.m.
December 9

Fireman's Club in 2009

In recent months, the Fireman's Club building at 12601 Bay Leaf Church Road has undergone a significant amount of refurbishing. Thanks to all who worked so hard and did such a beautiful job. Going forward in 2009, the Fireman's Club wants to expand its focus from a piece of property to the entire Raleigh Fire Department family. The Fireman's Club will be an organization that represents the department, and provides support when times are tough for brothers or sisters. Their goal is 100% membership.

As of January 31, 2009, an annual fee of \$25 is due for all active personnel to join or continue their membership. Retirees do not have to pay this fee. The money is needed for maintaining the building and the property. A percentage of collected dues will be set aside as a hardship fund. Quarterly meetings will be held, and every member is invited to attend.

The Fireman's Club also seeks enthusiastic and ambitious individuals to join the Board of Directors and become a vital part of the organization. For more information, contact Fireman's Club President Michelle Munisteri (E13-C).

Retiree Christmas Party

The annual retiree Christmas Party is Tuesday, December 9, at the Wake County Shrine Club, 6015 Lead Mine Road. Doors open at 6:00 p.m., and dinner is served at 7:00 p.m. The cost is \$20.00 per person, or \$40.00 per couple.

Please send payments, with checks made payable to Al Moore, 6500 Secret Drive, Raleigh, NC, 27612. His telephone number is 919-848-1685. No refunds after December 5. Guests are welcome, and we hope our widows will attend as well. ❖

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

THE RALEIGH FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER IS A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FOR PERSONNEL, RETIREES, AND CITIZENS. THE EDITOR IS RALEIGH FIRE DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN MIKE LEGEROS. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT rdnews@legeros.com. FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE RALEIGH FIRE DEPARTMENT, VISIT THE WEB SITE www.raleigh-nc.org/fire. ■